A total of 5123 employees have been separated from the Company under Voluntary Retirement Scheme, till date.

List of Journalists covering various News Media

2192. SHRI R. SARATH KUMAR : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have asked the State Government to provide with the list of journalists covering various news media and journalists in the States all over the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the methods deviced by Government to check and control the Spate of non-accredited journalists in the news reporting;

(d) the action taken against such journalists, State-wise; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) to (e) The Central Government places no restriction that coverage of news/reporting has to be by accredited journalists.

Facts and figures regarding cable operators

2193. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government would be able to provide the facts and figures regarding cable operators in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the revenue being collected as entertainment tax from cable operators in the country per annum ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) and (b) The statistics regarding the total number of registered cable operators in the country and the rates charged by them are not maintained by the Government. However, the Report on "Indian Media Sector", prepared by HSBC in October, 2000, estimates that there are 30,000 local cable operators in the country.